



California on My Honor: Civics Institute for Teachers

A residential institute for K–12 teachers

Southern California Institute: San Diego

June 29–July 2, 2009

Northern California Institute: San Francisco

July 14–17, 2009









Joint One-Day Follow-up on October 23, 2009 in San Francisco

Participate this summer in an intensive civics institute focused on the judicial branch of government with other K–12 teachers, college professors, judges, and attorneys. Learn new and exciting ways to bring your civics-related social science program to life through the use of simulations, the visual and performing arts, and language arts.

Collaborate with colleagues to develop curriculum designed to increase the understanding of civics, civic engagement, and responsibility and to connect California content standards from several disciplines with social science standards.

Gather new strategies and resource materials, including Web tools, to take back to your classroom.

This professional development opportunity is offered free of charge to 30 competitively selected teachers per session. California on My Honor will include:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | \$500 stipend for teachers |  | Collaboration with colleagues, judges, and attorneys |
|  | Transportation, lodging, and meals |  | Visits to a Superior Court of California, the Supreme Court of California, and a Judicial Council meeting |
|  | Time to develop curriculum New resources |  | Two units for those who register through CSUSM Extended Learning |
|  | Standards review |  | Pedagogy refresher |



**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS**

For further information and application materials, contact:

Dr. Fran Chadwick, CSU San Marcos; fchadwic@csusm.edu
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/cift.html



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

January 15, 2009

Dear California Teacher:

The judicial branch of California endeavors to increase public understanding of the courts and the role that courts play in a democratic society. Local superior courts, appellate courts, and the state Supreme Court participate in numerous outreach and education programs that bring groups of citizens and students to the courts. We also offer information about the courts through written materials and Web sites and provide volunteers and staff for self-help centers in courthouses, in addition to other efforts to engage the public.

Despite the diligent efforts of schools and our courts, research about perceptions of the courts has shown that public knowledge about the judicial branch of government, generally, and about courts, in particular, needs improvement. As part of our approach to improve citizen knowledge, court staff are working in collaboration with California State University at San Marcos, College of Education, to offer an in-depth training institute this summer for interested California K–12 teachers.

The purpose of this training is to:

- Review the current K–12 curriculum standards related to civics education;
- Increase knowledge about the role and operations of the courts;
- Experience models of existing K–12 court- and law-related education programs, including a visit to the local courthouse and a meeting with judges;
- Refresh knowledge of the principles of effective lesson plan design and evaluation;
- Learn about exciting ways to use technology in teaching about civics;
- Prepare unique lesson plans to use in participants' classrooms, tailored to individual classrooms and communities; and
- Report back to institute leaders and participants at a later date after implementation and evaluation of the lesson plans.

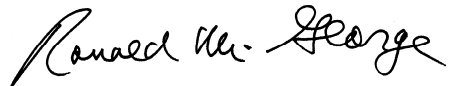
January 15, 2009

Page 2

I invite you to apply for the competitive selection process to become a 2009 institute participant. Specific application information is attached.

Thank you for the important work you do in serving your students and communities throughout California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ronald M. George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council

RMG/DB/JL/cp
Attachment